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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/172,261	10/14/1998	HIROHIKO ITO	35.G2265	9043

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EXAMINER	
WORKU, NEGUSSIE	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/172,261	ITO, HIROHIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Negussie Worku	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 December 2002* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 7 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Toyoda et al. (USP 5,812,278).

With regard to claim 1, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 as input and output means), method in which image data is input from at least one image input section (scanning unit 25 of fig 4), and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, (printer 32 of fig 3), comprising the steps of: dividing image processing of image processing unit (28 of fig 4, as image processing unit) to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section (scanner 25 of fig 4, as an input means, see

col.12, lines 7--9) and to an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section (printing unit 32 of fig 4, as outputting section, see col.11, lines 47-50).

With respect to claim 2, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input (scanner 25 of fig 4), and output (printer 32 of fig 4) method wherein image data is input and stored in an image storage section (storage 23 of fig 4 for storing data, see col.10, lines 64-65) for the image input job and image data is read from the image storage section (23 of fig 4) and output in the image output section (printer 32 of fig 4).

With regard to claim 3, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section), method wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, (scanner 25 of fig 4, a means for reading the image), image data developed from code data expressing an image and image data received from an external unit, (computer 15 of fig 3, is connected to facsimile 21, through LAN of fig 3, data is inputted to the scanner from the computer 15 of fig 3) is input in the image input job.

With regard to claim 4, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section) method wherein image data is output to at least one of a printer section (32 of fig 4) printing an image and a transmission section (BUS of fig 4, a means for transmitting data to the output section 32 of fig 4) transmitting an image in the image output job.

With regard to claim 5, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output ((scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section)) method further comprising the step of creating a plurality of management tables (an address in memory, as shown 6) which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job, see (col.13, lines 5- 10)

With regard to claim 6, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section) method wherein the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job are independently controlled in said controlling (CPU 30 of fig 4, Independently control scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, see col.25-20), step according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (col.13, lines 5- 10).

With regard to claim 7, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section), comprising: input means (32 of fig 4) for inputting image data from at least one image input section (25 of fig 4); output means (32 of fig 4) for outputting Image data to at least one image output section; (printer 32 of fig 4) obtaining means for obtaining image-processing parameters (CPU 30 of fig 4, a means for obtaining parameters, such as image size, image resolution and like. see (col.14, lines 15-20) which regulate image processing of one image processing unit (21 of fig 4) to be performed; and controlling means (26 of

fig 4) for controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by, said obtaining means; (CPU 30 of fig 4) wherein said controlling means, (26 of fig 4) divides the image processing of the one image processing unit (21 of fig 4) expressed by the image processing parameters, see (Col.14, lines 15-20) obtained by the obtaining means (CPU 30 of fig 4) into an image input job in which image data is input by said image input means (25 of fig 4) and an image of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently (CPU 30 of fig 4), Independently control scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, see col.25-20), and after a preceding image input job is finished starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

With regard to claim 8, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section) apparatus (fig 4), further comprising storage means (23 of fig 4) for storing image data, see (col.10, line 64-66) wherein the image data input by said input means (25 of fig 4) is stored into said image storage means (23 of fig 4) in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means (23 of fig 3) is output by said output means (printer 32 of fig 4) in the image output job.

With regard to claim 9, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 , as input and output means), wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image data developed from code data expressing

an image, and image data received from an external unit (computer 15 of fig 3, is connected to facsimile 21, through LAN of fig 3, data is inputted to the scanner from the computer 15 of fig 3) is input by said input means (25 of fig 3) in the image input job.

With regard to claim 10, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output (scanner 25 and printer 24, as input output means) apparatus (fig 4) to wherein image data is output by said output means (32 of fig 4) to at least one of a printer section (32 of fig 4) printing an image and a transmission sections transmitting (21 of fig 3) an image.

With regard to claim 11, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input (scanner 25 of fig 4) and output (printer 32 of fig 4), apparatus wherein said controlling means (CPU 30 of fig 4), comprises a plurality of management tables (fig 6), see (col.13, lines 5-10) which holds Information used for managing the image-input job and the image output job.

With regard to claim 12, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input and output apparatus (fig 4) wherein said controlling means (CPU 30 of fig 4) independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (fig 6), col.13, lines 5-10).

With regard to claim 13, Toyoda et al. teaches an image processing system (a shown in fig 3 and 4), input and output (scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, as input and output section), comprising: input means (32 of fig 4) for inputting image data from at least one image input section (25 of fig 4); output means (32 of fig 4) for outputting Image data to at least one image output section; (printer 32 of fig 4) obtaining means for obtaining image-processing parameters (CPU 30 of fig 4, a means for obtaining parameters, such as image size, image resolution and like. see (col.14, lines 15-20) which regulate image processing of one image processing unit (21 of fig 4) to be performed; and controlling means (26 of fig 4) for controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by, said obtaining means; (CPU 30 of fig 4) wherein said controlling means, (26 of fig 4) divides the image processing of the one image processing unit (21 of fig 4) expressed by the image processing parameters, see (Col.14, lines 15-20) obtained by the obtaining means (CPU 30 of fig 4) into an image input job in which image data is input by said image input means (25 of fig 4) and an image of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently (CPU 30 of fig 4), Independently control scanner 25 and printer 32 of fig 4, see col.25-20), and after a preceding image input job is finished starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished, wherein said image input means (scanner 25 of fig 4) input image data obtained by reading an original image and image data received from an external unit (15 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 14, Toyoda et al. an image processing system (fig 4) further comprising storage means (23 of fig 4) for storing image data, wherein the image data input by said input image data read from said image storage means (23 o fig 3) is output by said output means (printer of fig 4) in the image output job..

With regard to claim 15, Toyoda et al. an image processing system (fig 4) wherein the image input means (25 of fig 4) inputs at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit (computer 15 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 16, Toyoda et al. an image processing system (fig 4) wherein the image output means (scanner 24 of fig 4), performs at least one of image printing (32 of fig 4) according to image data and image-data transmission (21 of fig 3, for data transmission).

With regard to claim 17, Toyoda et al. teaches an image processing system (fig 4) Wherein said controlling means (CPU 30 of fig 4) comprises a plurality of management tables, see (fig 6, col.13, lines 5-10),which hold information used for managing the image-input job and the image output job.

With regard to claim 18, Toyoda et al. teaches an image processing system (fig 3) wherein said controlling means (CPU 30 of fig 4) independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job, see col.14, Lines 15-20) according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (fig 6).

With respect to claims 19, 20 and 21, Toyoda et al. teaches an image input (scanner 25 of fig 4) and output (printer 32 of fig 4) method wherein said interface section (interface LAN of fig 3) connects to a computer (15 of fig 4).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from Examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is (703) 305 5441.

The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9 am -6 pm attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner' Supervisor, David Moore, can be reached on (703) 308-7452.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-5968 and any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9000.

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Negussie Worku
02/07/03